

Appl. No. 10/559,090
Comment. Dated October 25, 2006
Reply to Office Action Dated June 29, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Please reconsider the application in view of the following remarks.

Examiner has rejected claims 1, 5, 6 and 8 as been anticipated under 35 USC 102(b) by Glenn, Jr (4,114,721). Examiner has also rejected claims 11-14 under 35 USC 103(a) over Glenn. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejections for the reasons set out below.

Glenn discloses a method wherein a pair of acoustic detectors are moved through a well to detect sound at various levels. The method of Glenn broadly aims at eliminating the incoherent noise from the signals received by the acoustic detectors. In order to perform such task, Glenn discloses the step of cross correlating responses from said two detectors.

The method as described and claimed according to the invention is noticeably different in that the analysis - that is perform on signal received at one a single detector- is to look at the time and frequency dependent changes of frequency spectra in order to determine the type of noise at a given depth. This is clearly indicated in claims 1, 13 and 14.

Nothing in Glenn discloses or even suggests this time and frequency dependant changes of power-frequency spectra to identify the discrete acoustic signal.

In conclusion, independent claims 1, 13 and 14 are allowable over the prior art and dependent claims 2-8, 11, 12 are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

The other prior art made of record and not relied upon, namely Glenn, US 4,046,220 and Moore , US 3,588,800 are not considered as particularly pertinent. Indeed, none of them disclose, suggest, teach or motivate a person of ordinary skill in the art such that the present invention would have been anticipated or obvious.

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CONCLUSION

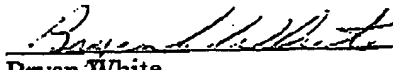
Applicant believes this reply to be fully responsive to all outstanding issues. Accordingly, the application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is solicited.

If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated June 29, 2006 for which the three-month date for response is September 29, 2006. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), Applicants petition for an extension of time of one month in which to respond to the Office Action. This one-month extension will bring the deadline for response to October 29, 2006, which is within the six-month statutory period. The Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee due to Deposit Account No. 50-2183 for the one month extension. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50.2183 (Reference Number 21.1139).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/30/06


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